

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for automatically naming hosts in a distributed data processing system, the method
- 5 comprising:
- receiving unique identifiers (UIDs) from multiple hosts in communication with a cluster controller;
  - in response to receiving the UIDs, causing the multiple hosts to produce ready signals;

10 receiving user input from a first host among the multiple hosts;

  - in response to receiving the user input from the first host, associating a first host name with the UID for the first host;

15 after associating the first host name with the UID for the first host, causing the first host to produce a completion signal;

  - receiving user input from a second host among the multiple hosts; and

20 repeating the operations of receiving replies from hosts, associating host names with UIDs, and causing hosts to produce completion signals, until each of the multiple hosts has been named, such that the user input dictates the order in which host names are assigned to

25 the multiple hosts.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the operation of associating a first host name with the UID for the first host comprises:

in response to receiving the user input from the  
5 first host, transmitting data to the first host; and  
after transmitting the data to the first host,  
receiving a reply from the first host, such that the  
first host name is associated with the UID for the first  
host in further response to the reply.

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3. The method of Claim 2, further comprising:

providing the cluster controller with a host-name  
index, wherein:

the operation of transmitting data to the first host  
15 comprises transmitting the host-name index to the first  
host;

the operation of receiving a reply from the first  
host comprises receiving an incremented host-name index  
from the first host; and

20 the operation of associating a host name with the  
UID for the first host comprises using the host-name  
index to generate the host name to be associated with the  
UID for the first host.

4. The method of Claim 2, further comprising:  
providing the cluster controller with a host-name  
index and a host-name root; and  
providing the multiple hosts with auto-naming logic,

5 wherein:

the auto-naming logic causes the multiple hosts to  
transmit the UUIDs to the cluster controller;

the auto-naming logic receives the index in the data  
from the cluster controller, increments the index, and  
10 transmits the incremented index to the cluster controller  
in the reply; and

the operation of associating a host name with the  
UUID for the first host comprises using the host-name root  
and the host-name index to generate the host name to be  
15 associated with the UUID for the first host.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the operation of  
causing the multiple hosts to produce ready signals  
comprises activating light emitting diodes (LEDs) on the  
20 multiple hosts to indicate that the multiple hosts are  
ready to be named.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the operation of  
receiving user input from the first host comprises  
25 detecting that a disk has been inserted into a disk drive  
of the first host.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the operation of causing the first host to produce a completion signal comprises deactivating a light emitting diode (LED) on the first host.

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8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the operation of causing the first host to produce a completion signal comprises producing an audible signal to indicate that the first host has been named.

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9. A program product for automatically naming hosts in a distributed data processing system, the program product comprising:

computer instructions that:

- 5 receive unique identifiers (UIDs) from multiple hosts in communication with a cluster controller;  
in response to receiving the UIDs, cause the multiple hosts to produce ready signals;  
receive user input from a first host among the  
10 multiple hosts;  
in response to receiving the user input from the first host, associate a first host name with the UID for the first host;  
after associating the first host name with the UID  
15 for the first host, cause the first host to produce a completion signal;  
receive user input from a second host among the multiple hosts; and  
repeat the operations of receiving replies from  
20 hosts, associating host names with UIDs, and causing hosts to produce completion signals, until each of the multiple hosts has been named, such that the user input dictates the order in which host names are assigned to the multiple hosts; and  
25 a computer-usable medium encoding the computer instructions.

10. The program product of Claim 8, wherein:  
the computer instructions respond to the user input  
from the first host by transmitting data to the first  
host;

5 the computer instructions receive a reply from the  
first host; and

the computer instructions associate the first host  
name with the UID for the first host in further response  
to the reply.

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11. The program product of Claim 10, wherein the  
operations performed by the computer instructions further  
comprise:

recognizing a host-name index; and

15 transmitting the host-name index to the first host  
with the data, wherein:

the operation of receiving a reply from the first  
host comprises receiving an incremented host-name index  
from the first host; and

20 the operation of associating a host name with the  
UID for the first host comprises using the host-name  
index to generate the host name to be associated with the  
UID for the first host.

25 12. The program product of Claim 9, wherein the computer  
instructions cause the multiple hosts to produce ready  
signals by activating light emitting diodes (LEDs) on the  
multiple hosts to indicate that the multiple hosts are  
ready to be named.

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14. The program product of Claim 9, wherein the computer instructions cause the first host to produce a completion signal by deactivating a light emitting diode (LED) on the first host.

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16. A data processing system for automatically naming hosts in a distributed data processing system, the data processing system comprising:

5 a network interface in communication with multiple hosts, a processor in communication with the network interface, data storage in communication with the processor, and computer instructions stored in the data storage, wherein, when the computer instructions are executed by the processing resources, the computer  
10 instructions perform operations comprising:

receiving unique identifiers (UIDs) from the multiple hosts;

in response to receiving the UID, causing the multiple hosts to produce ready signals;

15 receiving user input from a first host among the multiple hosts;

in response to receiving the user input from the first host, associating a first host name with the UID for the first host;

20 after associating the first host name with the UID for the first host, causing the first host to produce a completion signal;

receiving user input from a second host among the multiple hosts; and

25 repeating the operations of receiving replies from hosts, associating host names with UIDs, and causing hosts to produce completion signals, until each of the multiple hosts has been named, such that the user input dictates the order in which host names are assigned to  
30 the multiple hosts.



17. The data processing system of Claim 16, wherein the operation of associating a first host name with the UID for the first host comprises:

5       transmitting data to the first host; and  
          receiving a reply from the first host, wherein the computer instructions associate the first host name with the UID for the first host in further response to the reply.

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18. The data processing system of Claim 17, wherein the operations performed by the computer instructions further comprise

          recognizing a host-name index; and  
15       transmitting the host-name index to the first host with the data, wherein:

          the operation of receiving a reply from the first host comprises receiving an incremented host-name index from the first host; and

20       the operation of associating a host name with the UID for the first host comprises using the host-name index to generate the host name to be associated with the UID for the first host.

25 19. The data processing system of Claim 16, wherein the computer instructions cause the multiple hosts to produce ready signals by activating light emitting diodes (LEDs) on the multiple hosts to indicate that the multiple hosts are ready to be named.

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20. The data processing system of Claim 16, wherein the user input comprises signals indicating that a disk has been inserted into a disk drive of the first host.

- 5 21. The data processing system of Claim 16, wherein the computer instructions cause the first host to produce a completion signal by deactivating a light emitting diode (LED) on the first host.

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